

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 EB-12

AGR-20 OMB-01 CIEP-03 SSC-01 AID-20 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 031032Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSQ MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CONFIDENTIAL MASERU 1158

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV LT

SUBJ: RAKHETLA NAMED AGRICULTURE MINISTER

REF : MASERU 1129

1. KHETLA T.J. RAKHETLA HAS BEEN ELEVATED BY PRIME MINISTER
CHIEF JONATHAN FROM POSITION OF PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AS REPLACEMENT
FOR PEETE PEETE. BORN IN 1933, RAKHETLA WAS EDUCATED IN
YUGOSLAVIA UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF OPPOSITION BASUTOLAND
CONGRESS PARTY AND WAS ONE OF FEW WITH SUCH CREDENTIALS TO
HOLD GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH 1970 UPHEAVAL.

2. RAKHETLA WAS IV GRANTEE IN 1973. HE IS PERSONABLE,
ALTHOUGH TACITURN, AND HIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD RESULT IN
EMBASSY ACCESS TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AT LEAST EQUAL TO
THAT ENJOYED IN PAST. RAKHETLA MAY MAKE A BETTER MINISTER
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THAN PERMANENT SECRETARY. HE HAS GOOD OVER-ALL GRASP OF AND

STRONG INTEREST IN LESOTHO'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS BUT HAS PROVED WEAK AS ADMINISTRATOR. DANIEL R. PHORORO, FORMERLY CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, HAS BEEN NAMED AS NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY AND SHOULD PROVIDE STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR RAKHETLA.

3. COMMENT. APPOINTMENT OF RAKHETLA, RELATIVELY UNDISTINGUISHED CIVIL SERVANT, UNDERSCORES SHORTAGE OF TALENT AVAILABLE TO CHIEF JONATHAN FROM HIS RULING BASUTOLAND NATIONAL PARTY. AGRICULTURE MINISTRY PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT (IT WAS ALLOTTED 30 PER CENT OF FY-75 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET) AND JONATHAN MAY BELIEVE CIVIL SERVANT WITH AGRICULTURAL COMPETENCE PREFERABLE TO POLITICAL FIGURE WITHOUT. NOMINATION OF TWO CIVIL SERVANTS, MOITSE AT COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND KOTSOKOANE AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN JULY CABINET CHANGES SPARKED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM AND MORE MAY BE LIKELY AS RESULT OF RAKHETLA'S APPOINTMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MASERU01158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740279-1094
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741076/aaaacmze.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MASERU 1129
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAKHETLA NAMED AGRICULTURE MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, LT, (RAKHETLA, KHETLA T J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005